

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08061

EXDIS

PASS COMMERCE FOR SECRETARY KREPS
LONDON FOR SHULMAN

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: OVIP (SECRETARY KREPS)UR, US
SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF VISIT BY SECRETARY KREPS TO USSR

1. DURING MEETING APRIL 17 WITH HAROLD SCOTT, PRESIDENT OF US/USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, I WAS SURPRISED AND CHAGRINED TO BE INFORMED IN CASUAL TONES TOWARDS END OF CONVERSATION THAT SCOTT REGARDED HIMSELF AS COMMISSIONED BY SECRETARY KREPS TO ARRANGE WITH MINISTER PATOLICHEV NEW DATES FOR HER POSTPONED VISIT TO USSR AND HAD CARRIED OUT THIS ASSIGNMENT. ACCORDING TO SCOTT, HE HAD AMBASSADOR SHULMAN'S AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE THIS ACTION.

2. SCOTT STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO INFORM PATOLICHEV THAT SECRETARY KREPS WOULD LIKE TO COME JULY 7-11. PATOLICHEV HAD LOOKED IN HIS APPOINTMENT BOOK, WHICH SCOTT SAID APPEARED TO BE EMPTY, AND HAD PRONOUNCED HIMSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH THESE DATES, ACCORDING TO SCOTT.

3. SCOTT FURTHER STATED THAT SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
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HAD SUGGESTED TO MRS. KREPS PRIOR TO HER POSTPONEMENT OF HER PLANNED VISIT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GO TO THE SOVIET UNION AT THAT TIME. HE QUITE CLEARLY HAD REFERENCE TO MY CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KREPS IN FEBRUARY. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT IF SOMEONE HAD TAKEN THAT LINE WITH SECRETARY KREPS, IT WAS NOT I. I WELCOMED AND CONTINUE TO WELCOME HER PROSPECTIVE VISIT.

I HAD POINTED OUT, OF COURSE, THAT SOVIET HANDLING OF SHCHARANSKIY CASE COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT HER PLANS; I.E. IF HE WERE PUT ON TRIAL OR GIVEN DRACONIC SENTENCE, THE PUBLIC REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE VERY STRONG. SCOTT REMARKED THAT PATOLICHEV, WHO IS IN HIS WORDS A "DELIGHTFUL MAN," WOULD HAVE SEEN TO IT THAT NO EMBARRASSMENT COME TO MRS. KREPS.

4. I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT I ALMOST HAD NO INFORMATION AT ALL ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY SCOTT WITH REGARD TO SECRETARY KREPS' VISIT. HE APPEARED TO ENTERTAIN SOME EARLIER DOUBTS THAT HE SHOULD CALL ON ME AT ALL AND DID SO ONLY ON THE AFTERNOON BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. HE HAD SAID NOTHING ABOUT THIS SUBJECT IN HIS EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH MY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND MY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, ALTHOUGH HE DID EXPRESS SOME RATHER STRONG CRITICISM OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS AND IN THE COURSE OF A TALK WHICH HE GAVE FOR THE RESIDENT U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

5. THE POINT IS THAT IF WHAT SCOTT TELLS ME IS TRUE, HE HAS BEEN USED AS A SPECIAL PRIVATE EMISSARY TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY A CABINET OFFICER WITHOUT MY HAVING BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE, NOT TO MENTION CONSULTED ABOUT THE TIMING OR OTHER ASPECTS. IN FACT, IT WAS ONLY BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION, AFTER THE FACT, IN A CASUAL WAY. HAD I BEEN
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INFORMED THAT SECRETARY KREPS WAS THINKING OF RESCHEDULING HER VISIT IN JULY, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO HAVE RAISED THAT QUESTION MYSELF, DIRECTLY WITH PATOLICHEV, ON WHOM I HAD CALLED AGAIN ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING IF SCOTT HAS INFORMED ME CORRECTLY OF THE BACKGROUND OF THIS MATTER AND IF HE WAS "INSTRUCTED" TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH PATOLICHEV. IF SO, . I HOPE THAT ANY SUCH FUTURE VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED THROUGH TRUSTED GOVERNMENT CHANNELS, WITH MY ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE. IF NOT, PLEASE ADVISE ME WHAT I SHOULD TELL MINISTER PATOLICHEV, WHO PRESUMABLY NOW BELIEVES THE VISIT IS ON FOR JULY 7-11. TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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